

Appl. No. 10/676,457

Amdt. Dated November 16, 2005

Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A valve assembly, comprising:

a valve body having at least a fluid inlet, and a fluid outlet, and an opening adapted to receive at least a portion of an actuator assembly therein;

a valve element disposed at least partially within the valve body, the valve element having a flow passage extending therethrough and an interface shaft extending therefrom, the valve element moveable between (i) an open position, in which the valve body fluid inlet is in fluid communication with the valve body fluid outlet, and (ii) a closed position, in which the valve body fluid inlet is not in fluid communication with the valve body fluid outlet;

an actuator assembly including a housing and an output shaft, the housing having a valve interface section extending into the valve body opening, the output shaft extending through the valve interface section and engaging the interface shaft in the valve body, the actuator assembly adapted to receive one or more position control signals and operable, in response thereto, to rotate the output shaft and thereby move the valve element between the open and closed positions;

an engagement structure coupled to the valve element and moveable therewith, the engagement structure including at least a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface; and

a single, unitary stop structure ~~fixedly coupled to~~ formed as an integral part of the actuator assembly, the stop structure including (i) a first engagement surface configured to engage the engagement structure first surface when the valve is in the open position and (ii) a second engagement surface configured to engage the engagement structure second surface when the valve is in the closed position.

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Claim 12 (previously presented): The valve of Claim 11, wherein:
the stop structure is machined into the actuator assembly housing.

Claim 13 (original): The valve assembly of Claim 11, wherein the engagement structure is machined into the valve element.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The valve assembly of Claim 11, wherein the stop structure is ~~coupled to~~ formed as an integral part of the actuator assembly housing valve interface section.

Claim 15 (original): The valve assembly of Claim 14, wherein the stop structure is machined into the actuator assembly housing valve interface section.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The valve assembly of Claim 11, wherein:
the engagement structure is coupled to the valve element proximate the interface shaft.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The valve assembly of Claim 11, wherein:
the valve element includes at least a top surface; and
the engagement structure is coupled to the valve element top surface.

Claim 18 (original): The valve assembly of Claim 17, wherein the first and second engagement surfaces are disposed substantially perpendicular to the valve element top surface.

Claims 19 and 20 (canceled).